



## State of North Carolina Office of the Governor

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### **GOV. EASLEY AND LT. GOV. PERDUE APPLAUD BRAC DECISION ON FT. BRAGG**

**RALEIGH** – Gov. Mike Easley and Lt. Gov. Beverly Perdue today applauded the decision by the 2005 Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission (BRAC) to accept the U.S. Department of Defense's (DOD) recommendation to significantly expand the mission at Ft. Bragg Army Base.

The Commission recommended that North Carolina gets both the Headquarters U.S. Army Forces Command (FORSCOM) and Headquarters U.S. Army Reserve Command from Ft. McPherson, Ga. The base's 7<sup>th</sup> Army Special Operations Forces would be moved to Eglin Air Force Base in Florida, while the 4<sup>th</sup> Brigade Combat Team from Europe would be activated at Bragg. Fort Bragg will be gaining 4,078 direct military jobs and 247 civilian jobs.

"This is a tremendous win for the entire Fayetteville region and North Carolina," Easley said. "Fort Bragg is one of our nation's premier military bases and has served an integral role in the defense of our country and our freedoms for many years. Today's decision makes it clear that Ft. Bragg will continue to provide a vital mission for years to come."

"This is a great day for North Carolina and the U.S. Army," Perdue said. "Moving FORSCOM to Bragg is like landing a major new corporate headquarters with long-term potential for even more economic growth. The re-stationing of an additional Brigade team at Ft. Bragg cements Ft. Bragg as part of the Army's future force structure. Overall it's a great win for North Carolina and a reflection of our state's strong partnership with the nation's military."

In May, the DOD recommended that 33 major bases across the country be closed and 29 others realigned. The agency states that it will save nearly \$50 billion with these changes. The BRAC Commission is voting this week on the list and will make its official recommendation to President George W. Bush by Sept. 8. The president has until Sept. 23 to either accept or reject the list in its entirety. If the president approves the list, Congress has 45 days to accept or reject it. If the president rejects the list, the BRAC Commission has 30 days to resubmit to him. Congress has until Dec. 22 to act on the final list.

North Carolina is home to six major military installations and more than 100,000 military personnel. To prepare for the BRAC announcement, the state has been targeting strategic investments to support its bases, surrounding communities, members of the military and family dependents. Following is a list of key steps taken since 2001:

- Easley signed into law statutes creating the Advisory Commission on Military Affairs on Sept. 26, 2001. The commission has hosted the first state conference on military base encroachment under the sponsorship of the National Governors Association, conducted an economic impact analysis showing that